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ZULIMA V. FARBER
ATTORNEY GENERAL OF NEW JERSEY
Division of Law
124 Halsey Street
P.O. Box 45029
Newark, New Jersey 07102
Telephone (973) 648-2436
Attorney for Board of Dentistry

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By:

Joseph Donofrio

Deputy Attorney General

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
DEPARTMENT OF LAW & PUBLIC SAFETY
DIVISION OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS
STATE BOARD OF DENTISTRY

IN THE MATTER OF

Administrative Action

CONSENT ORDER

CRAIG D. WILLIAMS, D.M.D. License # DI 16780

LICENSED TO PRACTICE DENTISTRY IN THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY

This matter was initially opened to the State Board of Dentistry ("Board") upon receipt of information that Craig D. Williams, D.M.D. ("respondent"), is indiscriminately prescribing and distributing large amounts and high doses of Controlled Dangerous Substances without a valid medical or dental purpose. Following the Board's receipt and review of the information respondent, through counsel, Stephen Passarella, Esq., and the Board, have agreed to defer further investigation of the aforesaid information and respondent has agreed to enroll in the Professional Assistance Program (PAP) and follow the recommendations of that program for assessment, counseling and treatment.

Based on the above, respondent has agreed to the voluntary surrender of his license to practice dentistry in this State pursuant to the terms of this order and agrees not to seek reinstatement for a minimum period of one year from the entry date of this order. The Board having determined, that the within disposition is adequately protective of the public health, safety and welfare, and good cause therefore existing for the entry of this order;

IT IS, therefore, on this 192 day of April, 2006,

ORDERED THAT:

- 1. Respondent, Craig D. Williams, DMD, shall surrender his license to practice dentistry in the State of New Jersey on or before April 28, 2006. Respondent's surrender shall be deemed a suspension and shall be for a minimum period of one year.
- 2. Respondent shall cease and desist prescribing, dispensing, handling or possessing all controlled substances and shall surrender his CDS registration and DEA registration and prescription pads, to investigators from the Enforcement Bureau, Division of Consumer Affairs immediately upon signing this order, and shall surrender his current biennial registration and original license no later than April 28, 2006.
- 3. In furtherance of the surrender of his license respondent, as of the date of his signature on this order, shall accept no new patients. Additionally, respondent is prohibited from beginning any new treatment on current patients where the completion of that treatment would extend beyond April 28, 2006. Respondent must refer any patient treated prior to April 28, 2006, who requires a prescription, to another practitioner.
- 4. Respondent shall comply with the attached directives for dentists whose surrender of licensure has been accepted by the Board, which are attached to this order and incorporated here by reference.

- 5. Respondent shall enroll in the PAP and follow all recommendations of that program for assessment, counseling and treatment.
 - 6. Prior to any restoration of his license, respondent shall:
- a. Appear before the Board or a committee of the Board to discuss his readiness to reenter the practice of dentistry. At that time respondent shall be prepared to propose his plans for future practice in New Jersey.
- b. Demonstrate to the satisfaction of the Board that he is physically and psychologically fit and that he is capable of discharging the functions of a licensee in a manner consistent with the public's health, safety and welfare and that he is not then suffering from any impairment or limitation resulting from the use of any CDS or other substance, whether legal or illegal, which could affect his practice.
- c. Provide the Board with reports from each and every mental health professional (including but not limited to: psychologists, counselors, therapists, psychiatrists) who have participated in respondent's care and/or treatment and provide all records from any health care facilities and/or treatment program he attended. All reports and records shall cover the entire period of time from respondent's entry into treatment to his appearance.
- d. Provide the Board with a report from the New Jersey Professional Assistance Program detailing the nature and extent of his involvement with that entity, including a full accounting of all monitoring; all recommendations for assessment counseling and treatment; the extent to which such recommendations were followed; and which shall include the recommendation of the PAP regarding respondent's return to practice.
- e. Affirmatively establish his fitness, competence and capacity to re-enter the active practice of dentistry within New Jersey, including an accounting of all continuing education courses completed while his license was surrendered.

f. Provide the Board with a full account of his conduct during the intervening period of time from his entry into treatment to his appearance pursuant to this Order.

7. The Board may require respondent to submit to an independent psychiatric evaluation prior to his return to practice.

8. Following review of all relevant documents submitted, the Board, in its sole discretion, will determine whether and under what conditions respondent may return to practice.

9. The parties stipulate that entry of this Order is without prejudice to further action by this Board or other law enforcement entities resulting from respondent's conduct including but not limited to the conduct alleged in this order.

NEW JERSEY STATE BOARD OF DENTISTRY

By: Herbert Dolinsky, D.D.S., President

I have read and I understand the terms of this order and agree to be bound by it. I consent to the entry of this Order.

Craig D. Williams, D.M.D.

Date

I consent to the entry of this order as to form.

Steven T. Passarella, Esq.

Date 12 - / Second

Attorney for Respondent

DIRECTIVES APPLICABLE TO ANY DENTISTRY BOARD LICENSEE WHO IS SUSPENDED, REVOKED OR WHOSE SURRENDER OF LICENSURE HAS BEEN ACCEPTED

A practitioner whose license is suspended or revoked or whose surrender of license has been accepted by the Board, shall conduct him/herself as follows:

1. Document Return and Agency Notification

The licensee shall promptly deliver to the Board office at 124 Halsey Street, 6th floor, Newark, New Jersey 07102, the original license and current biennial registration certificate, and if authorized to prescribe drugs, the current State and Federal Controlled Dangerous Substances Registration. With respect to suspensions of a finite term, at the conclusion of the term, the licensee may contact the Board office for the return of the documents previously surrendered to the Board.

2. Practice Cessation

The licensee shall cease and desist from engaging in the practice of dentistry in this State. This prohibition not only bars a licensee from rendering professional services, but also from providing an opinion as to professional practice or its application, or representing him/herself as being eligible to practice. Although the licensee need not affirmatively advise patients or others of the revocation, suspension or surrender, the licensee must truthfully disclose his/her licensure status in response to inquiry. The disciplined licensee is also prohibited from occupying, sharing or using office space in which another licensee of this Board provides health care services. Unless otherwise ordered by the Board, the disciplined licensee may contract for, accept payment from another licensee for or rent at fair market value office premises and/or equipment. In no case may the disciplined licensee authorize, allow or condone the use of his/her provider number by the practice or any other licensee or health care provider. In situations where the licensee has been suspended for less than one year, the licensee may accept payment from another professional who is using his/her office during the period that the licensee is suspended, for the payment of salaries for office staff employed at the time of the Board action.

A licensee whose license has been revoked, suspended for one (1) year or more or permanently surrendered must remove signs and take affirmative action to stop advertisements by which his/her eligibility to practice is represented. The licensee must also take steps to remove his/her name from all prescription blanks and pads, professional listings, telephone directories, professional stationery, or billings. If the licensee's name is utilized in a group practice title, it shall be deleted.

Prescription pads bearing the licensee's name shall be destroyed. A destruction report form shall be obtained from the Office of Drug Control (973-504-6558) and filed with that office. If no other licensee is providing services at the practice location, all medications must be removed and returned to the manufacturer (if possible), or destroyed or safeguarded. In situations where the licensee has been suspended for a period of less than one year, prescription pads and medications must be secured in a locked place for safekeeping.

3. Practice Income Prohibitions/Divestiture of Equity Interest in Professional Service Corporations

A licensee shall not charge, receive or share in any fee for professional services rendered by him/herself or others while barred from engaging in the professional practice. The licensee may be compensated for the reasonable value of services lawfully rendered and disbursements incurred on a patient's behalf prior to the effective date of the Board action.

A licensee whose license is revoked, surrendered or suspended for a term of one (1) year or more shall be deemed to be disqualified from the practice, and shall be required to comply with the requirements to divest him/herself of all financial interest in the professional practice pursuant to Board regulations contained in N.J.A.C. 13:30-8.21. Such divestiture shall occur within 90 days following the entry of the Board Order. Upon divestiture, a licensee shall forward to the Board a copy of documentation forwarded to the New Jersey Department of Treasury, Commercial Reporting Division, demonstrating that the interest has been terminated. If the licensee is the sole shareholder in a professional service corporation, the corporation must be dissolved within 90 days of the licensee's disqualification.

4. Patient Records

If, as a result of the Board's action, a practice is closed or transferred to another location, the licensee shall ensure that during the three (3) month period following the effective date of the disciplinary order, a message will be delivered to patients calling the former office premises, advising where records may be obtained. The message should inform patients of the names and telephone numbers of the licensee (or his/her attorney) assuming custody of the records. The same information shall also be disseminated by means of a notice to be published at least once per month for three (3) months in a newspaper of general circulation in the geographic vicinity in which the practice was conducted. At the end of the three month period, the licensee shall file with the Board the name and telephone number of the contact person who will have access to patient records of former patients. Any change in that individual or his/her telephone number shall be promptly reported to the Board. When a patient or his/her representative requests a copy of his/her patientl record or asks that the record be forwarded to another health care provider, the licensee shall promptly provide the record without charge to the patient.

5. Probation/Monitoring Conditions

A disciplined practitioner whose active suspension of license has been stayed in full or in part, conditioned upon compliance with a probation or monitoring program, shall fully cooperate with the Board or its designated representatives, including the Enforcement Bureau of the Division of Consumer Affairs, in ongoing monitoring of the licensee's status and practice. Such monitoring shall be at the expense of the disciplined practitioner.

- (a.) Monitoring of practice conditions may include, but is not limited to, inspection of professional premises and equipment, and inspection and copying of patient records (confidentiality of patient identity shall be protected by the Board) to verify compliance with Board Order and accepted standards of practice.
- (b.) Monitoring of status conditions for an impaired practitioner may include, but is not limited to, practitioner cooperation in providing releases permitting unrestricted access to records and other information to the extent permitted by law from any treatment facility, other treating practitioner, support group or other individual or facility involved in the education, treatment, monitoring or oversight of the practitioner, or maintained by the rehabilitation program for impaired practitioners. If bodily substance monitoring has been ordered, the practitioner shall fully cooperate by responding to a demand for breath, blood, urine or other sample in a timely manner and by providing the designated sample.

6. Reports of Reimbursement

A disciplined practitioner shall promptly report to the Board his/her compliance with each directive requiring monies to be reimbursed to patients to other parties or third party payors or to any Court.

7. Report of Changes of Address

A disciplined practitioner shall notify the Board office in writing within ten (10) days of change of address.

NOTICE OF REPORTING PRACTICES OF BOARD REGARDING DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS

Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 52:14B-3(3), all orders of the New Jersey State Board of Dentistry are available for public inspection. Should any inquiry be made concerning the status of a licensee, the inquirer will be informed of the existence of the order and a copy will be provided if requested. All evidentiary hearings, proceedings on motions or other applications which are conducted as public hearings and the record thereof, including the transcript and documents marked in evidence, are available for public inspection upon request.

Pursuant to Public Law 101-191, the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act, the Board is obligated to report to the Healthcare Integrity and Protection Data Bank any adverse action relating to a dentist:

- (1) Which revokes or suspends (or otherwise restricts) a license; or
- (2) Which censures, reprimands or places on probation, or restricts the right to apply or renew a license; or
- (3) Under which a license is surrendered.

In accordance with an agreement with the American Association of Dental Examiners, a report of all disciplinary orders is provided to that organization on a monthly basis.

Within the month following entry of an order, a summary of the order may appear on the public agenda for the monthly Board meeting and is forwarded to those members of the public requesting a copy. In addition, the same summary will appear in the minutes of that Board meeting, which are also made available to those requesting a copy.

On a periodic basis the Board disseminates to its licensees a newsletter which includes a brief description of all of the orders entered by the Board. In addition, the same description may appear on the Internet Website of the Division of Consumer Affairs.

From time to time, the Press Office of the Division of Consumer Affairs may issue releases including the summaries of the content of public orders.

Nothing herein is intended in any way to limit the Board, the Division or the Attorney General from disclosing any public document.